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HERBARIUM OF THE LATE DR. WALKER-ARNOTT.—The herbarium belonging to the late Dr. Walker-Arnott has, since his death, been acquired by the Glasgow University. Included in this is his magnificent collection of Diatomaceæ, which is contained in three large cabinets, and consists of fully ten thousand specimens, all mounted upon glass slides, ready for examination by means of the microscope. The specimens put up in tubes, from which slides can be prepared, will most likely be acquired by Dr. Eulenstein, the well known German diatomist, who will thus be enabled to push forward, it is to be hoped, the new edition of Pritchard's Infusoria, upon which he has been for some time engaged. The herbarium is a very large one, being contained in twenty cabinets, each of which holds at least four thousand specimens. The botanical library goes with the herbarium, and thus will be stored in a safe resting-place, the results of the labor of fifty years in the life of this eminent botanist. —A. M. EDWARDS.

NEW LOCALITY OF ASPIDIUM ACULEATUM (L.) SW. This fern, though widely distributed over the globe, is rare in the United States, being confined to a few mountains and high valleys in New England and New York. It has been collected in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, near the summit of Mt. Willoughby, and in the Notch at the north-eastern base of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont—and among the Adirondack mountains, N. Y. To these localities we may now add "Stony Clove," Catskill Mountains, N. Y.,—where the writer found it in August of this year, growing abundantly, under conditions very similar to those of Mt. Mansfield Notch. This locality is one hundred and forty miles farther south than any previously known in our country.—JOHN H. REDFIELD, *Phila.*

ZOÖLOGY.

A REMARKABLE ECHINODERM.—At the meeting of the Scandinavian Naturalists at Christiania in 1868, Professor Lovén laid before the Zoölogical section the figures and description of a very remarkable Echinoderm from the Torres Straits (off Cape York), termed *Hyponome Sarsi.* It forms, in a new and very unexpected manner, a link between the palæozoic and the recent animal life. It is, strange to say, most nearly allied to Cystidea, especially to Agelacrinus, and will, no doubt, when its anatomy shall be known, give us a full clue to the comprehension of this enigmatic zoölogical type. The animal (which appears not to have lived fastened to the bottom of the sea) resembles a star-fish, with fine short and thick, but dichotomously branching arms; it had no stem. Five ambulacral furrows are present, giving off branches to the branches of the arms, and farther to several small club-like swellings of the skin, covering the superior, or ventral surface; but only these terminal or distal parts of the ambulacral furrows are open; in the rest of their course towards the centre of the disk they are covered up or converted into vaulted galleries, converging towards the central, but exteriorly *invisible* mouth. This covering up of the ambulacral furrows was effected by means of the limiting plates joining each other altogether from both sides; but that the food is picked up in the open parts and conveyed to the invisible mouth, is demonstrated by the fact that small heaps of small crustacea and other minute animals were found in them. With the exception of a smooth, triangular space on the back, with a group of small pores in the centre (we do not yet know whether these pores are genital outlets or perhaps play the part of a "madreporite") the whole dorsal and ventral surface is covered with small irregular calcareous plates; but in one of the interradial areas of the ventral surface arises an anal tube, or "proboscis," evidently quite analogous to the anal tube of Antedon, Pentacrinus, Rhizocrinus (and all other recent crinoids, with the exception of the little known Holopus) to the "pyramid" of Agelacrinus, Caryocrinus and Cystidea generally, and to the short or long proboscis.of most palæozoic Crinoids, with a hard, tessellated cover of the calyx. It has been a great puzzle, that a mouth, separate from the anal "proboscis" could not be detected in most of the palæozoic Crinoids, now we know where to find it. Mr. Billing's discovery of subterminal ambulacral channels, or vaulted galleries, situated quite below the unbroken perisome, and radiating from the arms towards the central part of the disc, shows clearly, when elucidated by the analogy of the half open, half closed ambulacral channels of Hyponome, that the mouth in these old sea lilies was *internal, hidden and invisible*, and that the "proboscis" had nothing to do with it, but was simply the excretory part of the digestive system, as pointed out already in 1866 by Dr. Schultze, in his excellent Monograph of the Echinoderms of the Eifel. — Dr. C. F. Lütken, Copenhagen.

The Tennessee Warbler. — I was much surprised at the statement of Mr. Boardman in the June number of the Naturalist, that the Tennessee Warbler is a common species in Maine during the spring. In the article to which he refers, I stated that it was rare in New England, rather on the authority of writers on ornithology than as the result of my own observations. Audubon says that the Tennessee Warbler is rare, and that it extends northward only as far as New York. Wilson met with but three specimens. Nuttall makes no mention of it among the birds of New England. Girard never met with it on Long Island; and De Kay says it is rare in the State of New York. I, myself, have never met with more than two specimens.

It is a very curious fact that this bird should be so rare in New York, and yet so abundant in Maine. All the other Warblers that enter New England in the spring pass through New York and New Jersey, where for a few days they are as abundant as they afterwards are in the New England States. Either the Tennessee Warbler must migrate with extraordinary rapidity, thus escaping detection, or else it must pursue a more westerly route than the other warblers, turning eastward only when it has journeyed a considerable distance north.—T. M Trippe, *Orange, N. Y.*

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—Dr. Coues in his "List of the Birds of New England" gives this bird as a "very rare summer visitant to the more southern portions. On page 214 of Mr. Samuels' work, I stated that I had found it occurring sparingly in May for several seasons. Since writing what I did I have observed the Golden-winged Warbler more plenty than ever, and as late as the middle of June, and in the same locality early in August with young. I felt, therefore, quite confident that it breeds here. This June (1869) Mr. J. C. Maynard has had the rare good fortune to find a nest and four eggs. Mr. Allen tells me that since publishing his list he has found it at Springfield in summer, and Mr. Jillson, of Hudson, writes me that it breeds in his locality, though I am not aware that he has actually obtained the nest. I wrongly stated in my letter to Mr. Samuels that this species, probably, proceeded North to breed. From my observations and knowledge of the bird at that time, I supposed it did so. Probably this state is about its northern limit on the Atlantic.—H. A. PURDIE, *West Newton, Mass., June*, 1869.

CORAL SNAKES.—A number of species of very different genera are confounded under this name by the inhabitants of tropical America. Their general appearance is attractive, being banded with red, black, and white. Some of them belonging to the genus *Elaps* are poisonous, though some of these are very mild and indisposed to bite. Others, belonging to the genera *Pliocercus, Erythrolamprus*, *Ophibolus*, *Oxyrrhopus*, etc., are quite harmless, but can only be distinguished from species of *Elaps* by a careful examination of the scales and teeth. The mimetic analogy presented by these species with species of *Elaps*, according to Prof. Cope, is very remarkable.

During a stay of a few days in Greytown, Nicaragua, an alcoholic specimen of a snake, called a "coral" snake and regarded as extremely poisonous, was added to our collection by a resident. Under the direction of Mr. Robert Kennicott, the naturalist in charge of our party, who had devoted several years to the study of reptiles, we examined the snake in question, compared it with other snakes known to be poisonous, and were fully satisfied that it was quite harmless notwithstanding the absurd stories which were related of it. I afterward brought in one of these snakes alive, and after examining the dentition with Mr. Kennicott, and confirming our previous opinion as to its harmlessness, it was preserved in alcohol. Asking Mr. K. what the species was, he answered that it belonged doubtfully in the genus *Elaps*, as it was a harmless snake, and was perhaps a new species of his own.* Not being a herpetologist, in a recent article in the NATURALIST I adverted to the circumstance, and used Mr. Kennicott's name as he wrote it in my note-book. An esteemed correspondent, in some remarks about the inadvisibility of handling unknown snakes reported to be poisonous, which I thoroughly

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*I have since been informed on good authority that the species to which he referred it is confined to *Sonora*.

agree with in general, rather hastily referred the case in question to the same category. A second glance would hardly have seen either bravado or foolhardiness in the capture of a snake of which an alcoholic specimen just previously examined, had given incontrovertible proofs of its utter harmlessness.—W. H. Dall.

The Black Vulture in Maine.—I had sent me (shot in this neighborhood) a good specimen of the Black Vulture (*Cathartes atratus*), the first one I ever knew so far east; and also a fine specimen of the Purple Gallinule (*Gallinula martinica*).—G. A. Boardman, *Calais, Me.*

MICROSCOPY.

Method of Preserving Animal Specimens for fine dissection.—Microscopists will read with interest a very simple method of preserving animal specimens for fine dissection. It is described by Dr. Alcock. The advantages of the plan are very perfect preservation; no necessity for closing up, so that the specimen cannot be got at; no fear of losing a valuable dissection from accidental evaporation, as when spirit is used; lastly, cheapness. The method adopted is to prepare a saturated solution of corrosive sublimate in alcohol, and when a dissection in water is in progress, a small quantity—half a teaspoonful—of the solution is to be added from day to day if the slightest appearance of putrefaction is observed, but no more of it is used than is absolutely necessary; and by the time the dissection is completed, the specimen has become imperishable from the union of the corrosive sublimate with the tissues, and it may then be kept in pure water, either open or mounted, in the usual way.—*Quarterly Journal of Science, London.*

GEOLOGY.

The Eozoön in Essex County. The remains of this, the oldest form of animal life thus far discovered on our globe, and found in the azoic [Laurentian] rocks of Ottawa, Canada, have, it is confidently believed, been within a few days detected in the serpentine of our "Devil's Den." The animal, if it may be so called, has been arranged by naturalists among the rhizopods, and would seem to have been a jelly-like living mass, spreading out on the bottom of the sea, capable of secreting calcareous partitions, and thus forming small chambers or cells, the interior of which has become filled by serpentine, which was deposited from the waters of the ocean, and took the place of the decomposing animated mass. This discovery, resulting from a visit of Prof. T. Sterry Hunt of Montreal to our neighborhood, will excite new interest in our limestone and serpentine quarry among geologists, and throw additional light upon the character and age of the rocks in this region.

Mr. Edwin Bicknell (Preparator of the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem), has, by a careful microscopic comparison of a specimen of Eo-